

Article published Mar 30, 2006

Denton ambulance director has been helping community for 20 years

By POLLY KOLSTAD
For the Tribune

As a mother with young children in the 1980s, LaDene Barber naturally took an interest in first aid.

Before she knew it, that casual interest snowballed and she was helping others as part of the ambulance service in Denton.

"When you know you are helping someone and making a difference in a small community, (and) it is someone you know, it is very helpful for patients to have familiar faces," Barber said.

Barber has been director of the ambulance service in Denton for more than 20 years — dedication that has earned her a great deal of respect.

"LaDene is a very modest leader who is quick to give credit to everyone else," her husband Dwight Barber writes. "She is organized and unassuming."

LaDene Barber was key in getting private funds to build a new emergency services building and in the purchase of a new ambulance. She's also written a history of the ambulance service.

"We've held fundraisers and successfully asked for donations," said Barber, adding that the community raised more than \$140,000, along with donating supplies and labor.

Barber also sits on the local Emergency Medical Services Council, which helps coordinate training.

Barber does much of the paperwork and is on call 24 hours a day. She's quick to acknowledge the efforts of the drivers, medics and other volunteers.

"Within our EMT service there are many people who deserve this kind of nomination," she said.

She has lived her whole life in the Denton area, growing up in nearby Coffee Creek.

Barber graduated from Denton High School in 1977. Husband, Dwight, a ranch manager, also was raised in Denton.

They have three children: Darci and her twin brother, Dustin, 23, and son, Degan, age 19.
